

# context

M E D I A

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photos?

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Dear Ted,

It has been a pretty exhausting couple of weeks. But I am generally happy with the tenor of media reactions to your book. I am enclosing four articles.

The Glaberson piece is as good as one might hope, but he did not include some important things I said to him when he interviewed me. Also: I withdrew a retort to Bisceglie's remark about schizophrenia. I had commented that the remark was expected, and represented the kind of circular logic employed by the press and your family throughout the year and a half preceding your non-trial. I then withdrew the comment. I think it is wise for the moment to wait and see how people react to this initial report. I spoke to Bonnie about showing the manuscript to Glaberson and we both agreed that his report would be useful to determine what kind of reaction to expect. Many news agencies called to request copies of the manuscript, but I have told them that no copies will be made public until late April since the book is not coming out until June. It is better to control the media a little by giving them as little to go on as possible, but enough so that they do not lose interest. Please also find the only public statement I have seen from your family. It is from the *New York Post* and it ran *instead* of a piece about your book.

I spoke to another reporter from the Times last week. His name is Jim Brooke. I had heard that someone was working on the Waits story. He called me, beginning the conversation by informing me that I was one of ten people who had read the book. I was not sure if he was trying to catch me off guard by putting me at ease, so I kept quiet and let him ask questions. He was very interested in the 14-page letter to the *Helena Independent* (they hadn't given him the last page of the letter, so I did). I asked if he had investigated the lies, and he told me they were of little interest to him. Again, I kept still and let him unfold the story: Kaczynski was monkey-wrenching long before it became known as a tactic of environmental activism. It seems he is writing a story that describes you as a monkey-wrenching pioneer. I then asked him what he thought about the allegations of the secret cabin. He was not interested and said, "I've built plenty of cabins in the woods, so what?" I am eagerly awaiting the story to come out, and shall send it to you when it does. But there is more about Waits.

I have received the declaration of Scharlette Holdman. Since there was a discrepancy between the names, I called \_\_\_\_\_ in Helena and asked if there was a Hoffman in addition to Holdman. There was not. (I am guessing that Holdman is Investigator 2 referred to in Appendix 10. If so, her declaration may hold less water, since you cast doubt on her reliability.) \_\_\_\_\_ offered some information that will be very useful. He said that he had been the one to notice Waits hanging around the area where you were incarcerated. He asked a guard what Waits was doing there, and the guard answered that Waits was there to visit you. \_\_\_\_\_ says that he then asked you about Waits and you answered: "I don't know him." I think that will prove useful, and I plan to call him today to see if he will write a letter to me recounting what he said over the phone. I cannot remember if it was Eileen Lundberg or \_\_\_\_\_ who told me that they had recently talked to \_\_\_\_\_ (it may also have been \_\_\_\_\_). At any rate, \_\_\_\_\_ apparently wants to write a book about the investigation. He has a very low opinion of Waits.

This brings me to another point. I spoke to Quin Denvir this morning. We had a pleasant conversation. After discussing various points about Waits, I told him about the conversation with \_\_\_\_\_. He suggested that \_\_\_\_\_ write the letter about his encounter with Waits. He then suggested something that I have already suggested to Ulveman: that the most interesting investigation to be done will prove to be one that inquires into the FBI's role vis-à-vis Waits's acquisition of your journals. Denvir thinks it may be possible to get the journals out of Waits's hands.

I think it would be most effective to gather as much evidence as possible, and use it against Waits if he starts to get attention. An organized ambush will destroy his reputation in one fell swoop, while a slow trickle of contention may only serve to feed the fire of his sordid imagination and exacerbate the proliferation of lies. I think the letter Quin Denvir wrote to you, along with any other declarations you may have, will suffice. I am still trying to get in touch with the photographer \_\_\_\_\_ who took the shots of your cabin.

By the way, I looked at the writing on the veneer that Waits attributes to you. Two things occur to me: Why would you write down insect-repelling instructions on your wall? Why does the handwriting look like yours only a very little bit? My guess is that Waits tried to imitate your handwriting, as you say in your last letter. I base this supposition on a comparison to the many samples of your handwriting that I have here in the office. I do think that we should get everything ready for Waits's surprise party before anything else gets sent to the media. It may be that his book will disappear before too long, which is another thing to bear in mind.

I hope this note finds you well.

Yours,

*Beau.*

P.S. I spoke w/ \_\_\_\_\_, and she will ask \_\_\_\_\_ to write a letter re: Waits. She is planning to write a letter to the editor of H.I. re. Waits's allegations.